

COLONNADE

The Official Student Newspaper of Georgia College

Study Drugs:



Worth the risk?

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See News



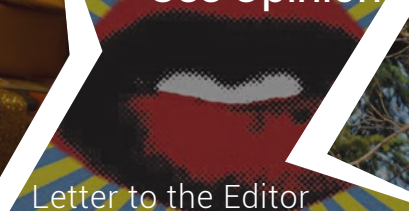
Is College Worth it?

Gift Guide



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Letter to the Editor

Women's Bball of
to Hot Streak



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Colonnade Coloring Book

December 4-11, 2015 Taylor Hembree, Editor-in-Chief



About This Issue...

This is our last issue of the semester and we have enjoyed bringing our readers the news every week. To the students graduating in December, good luck. You have the skills and ability to

accomplish whatever you set your mind to. In this issue, the News section covers study drugs and whether or not you should drop out of school. The Entertainment section has stories about

directing scenes and all things holiday. Sports has volleyball game recaps and a goodbye letter from the editor. If you want to write for the paper next semester, join us for pitch meetings on Mondays at 5 p.m.

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I'm kinda hungry, but I just ate like 2 hours ago.

I feel like thumbtacks are discriminatory towards other fingers.

I need a beer.

I just hope I somehow get paid for my internship.

Sometimes whenever I am feeling really bad about finals, I just cry.

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CONTACT US

Office: MSU 128
(706) 540-8656
ColonnadeLetters@gcsu.edu
ColonnadeNews@gcsu.edu
ColonnadeAE@gcsu.edu
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Studying study drugs

Editor's note: names in student testimonies have been changed



Taylor Hembree
@Tay-bayyyyyyyyy

"At first I took them to do big projects and to get through finals week," Andy, a student who is not prescribed Adderall said. "But, it got to the point in this semester where I was taking them to be able to get out of bed and be productive. It got to the point where I was having withdrawals on the days that I didn't take them, which were bad. I had really, vivid and bad nightmares and I would wake up in cold sweats and I would just be really freaked out. I would be in physical pain. I really didn't want to get out of bed; I really almost couldn't get out of bed. My body felt depleted, I felt weak, I was running a fever. I got to the point where I couldn't do my job, I neglected all of my schoolwork, I kind of just shut out and didn't answer people's phone calls. I kind of got into a depression."

It's no secret that study drugs have swept the nation's college campuses. Students from all walks of life use drugs like Adderall to get through situations that require focus and late nights. Study drugs aren't usually a hard choice to make, either, because of their price and accessibility.

According to the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, full-time college students between 18 and 22 years old are twice as likely to have used Adderall in a non-medical way.

Some of the positive side-effects of Adderall that have been reported are better focus, being able to stay up for

extended amounts of time, improvements in school work, ease of cramming for tests and the feeling of being able to conquer anything.

"I do really enjoy the side effects of Adderall," Luke, another user of Adderall who is not prescribed the drug, said.

However, with the supposed positive side-effects, come the negative ones.

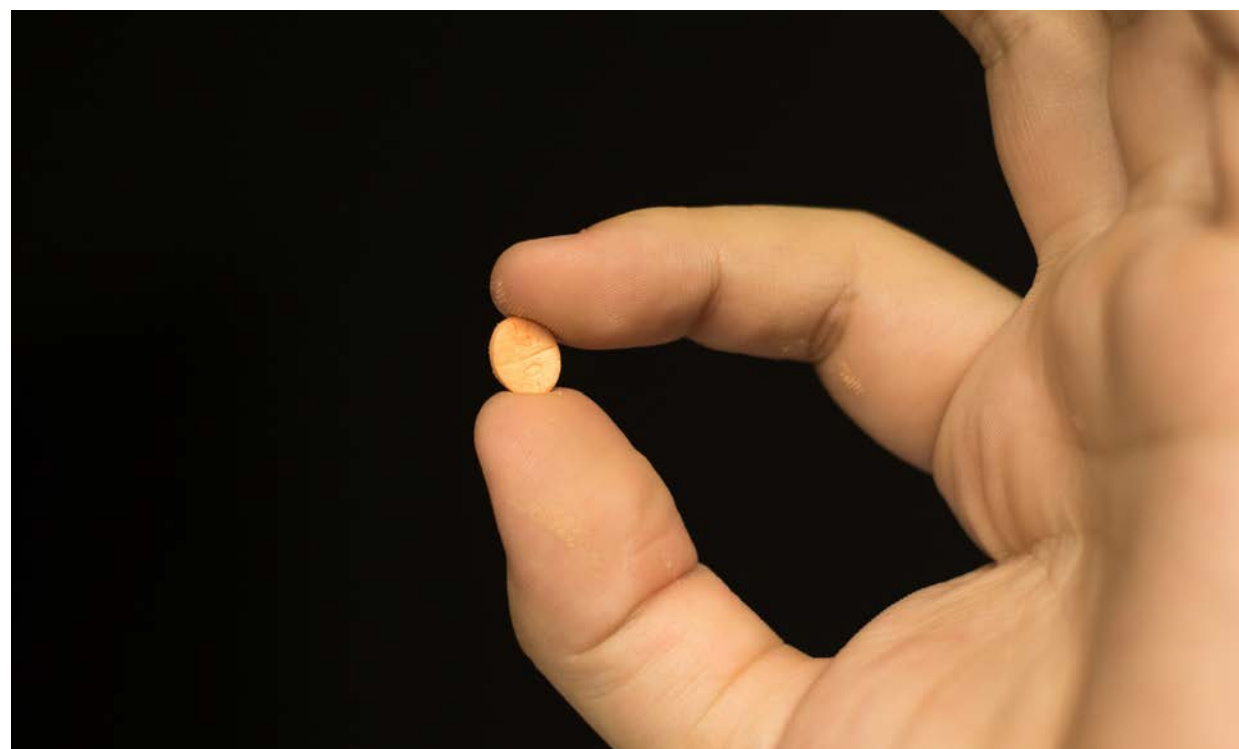
"When you have them, you're on top of the world for that short amount of time," Andy said. "But, once the effects wear off, your serotonin levels are depleted in your brain. You could be on a roller coaster, kissing your girlfriend and you wouldn't be happy."

The pills affect everyone differently, but changes in how the body functions are the main reasons for concern. Changes in appetite, sleep schedule and brain functions can lend themselves to dangerous consequences.

"I would wake up with little to no sleep and I would take another the next day," Andy said. "But, then if I felt like my body was shutting down, I would take another one to get through the day to get my things done. It turned into a very vicious cycle."

In a study published by Pubmed.gov, 1,253 college students during their four-year experiences were observed and almost two-thirds were offered prescription stimulants for nonmedical use and 31 percent used the drugs. The most common source for the drugs was friends with prescriptions.

"I would always recommend without hesitation against anyone taking any medication without a prescription,"



According to the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, full-time college students between 18 and 22 years old are twice as likely to have used Adderall in a non-medical way.

Counselor/Coordinator of Outreach Services at Georgia College, Cathy Rojas said. "This is because a student never knows how that medication will affect them at any given time."

The side-effects of those who take these pills without a prescription versus those who are medically using the drug are very different.

Some common side-effects that non-prescribed users may face are a racing heart, anxious feelings and lack of appetite, whereas users with a prescription are less likely to experience these negative side-effects, Alice Loper, director of health and wellness services said.

Davis, a student who was prescribed Adderall said that he simply told his doctor his symptoms and the doctor gave him a prescription for the pills. Davis said that he doesn't feel as if he actually has a medical reason for the drugs, but that it helps him with schoolwork.

"I just liked being able to focus more, it's not like I needed it," Davis said. "I guess I liked the feeling."

Even without a prescription, Adderall has become a drug that is very easy to get.

Davis stopped taking his prescribed Adderall because it was making him

lose weight due to lack of appetite. So, he decided to sell his pills in order to help his friends out that needed assistance focusing during finals.

"I can usually get it within the day, if I'm really looking for it," Luke said.

Meeting people behind bars, in class or knowing friends of friends have all become ways that Adderall has been bought.

"All I have to do is ask any of my friends and they hook me up," Lanier, an Adderall buyer said.

Selling Adderall is a felony, but laws vary from state to state. Lieutenant Gary Pervis of the GC Police Department said that in the past couple of years, the department has seen a rise in the use of prescription drugs, especially Adderall.

One student said this rise could be due to pressure of getting better grades, succeeding in extracurricular activities or being able to stay awake for longer periods of time.

"This semester kind of took a toll on me with my workload and obligations for different organizations," Andy said. "I would take a couple to stay up all-night."

Andy, Luke and Davis all claim that Adderall has helped their grades and has given them an edge on

studying by allowing them to pull all-nighters to cram for exams or projects.

Even with this study drug being popular on campus, some students choose not to use the drug.

"I don't get taking drugs to do school work," Caitlin, a Georgia College student said. "I know it helps people focus so that they can get their work done fast but drugs and school are usually not associated with each other so taking drugs to do school work just sounds backwards to me."

Adderall can become addictive and affects your body and how your brain functions with and without the drug in your system. Users urge new buyers to know the consequences and side effects before taking the pill.

"If you do cognitively choose to take these illegally, make sure that you do only use them when you need them, don't abuse the privilege of having it because that could lead to addiction," Andy said.

The Columnade performed a Google search as to why people may be prescribed Adderall. In this search, the second link was for an article that is entitled 'How To Get Your Doctor To Prescribe You Adderall In 5 Easy Steps'.

This article, published by thoughtcatalogue.com includes steps such as "Say that you're really against medication and you only want to use it as a last resort. This will make it feel like it was your doctor's idea in the first place." Articles similar to this one are all over the Internet and whether or not this article is satirical; it represents many students' viewpoints on how to get the drugs.

"I know friends who have gone to the doctor and been prescribed Adderall, even though I know that they do not have a medical reason to be prescribed," Katherine, a GC student said.

People are generally prescribed Adderall to deal with ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder). According to the mayoclinic.org, ADHD is a chronic condition that affects millions of individuals. It includes a combination of problems, such as difficulty sustaining attention, hyperactivity and impulsive behavior.

For more information regarding ADHD or the appropriate use of Adderall, contact your doctor or call the wellness clinic at GC at 478-445-5288.

22.1% of recent college grads are unemployed or underemployed.

The average graduate leaves college with about **\$36,000** in debt.

Is it really worth it?



Nick Landon
@realnicklondon

America's class of 2015 has set the bar high for the college graduates to follow them - but maybe not in the way they'd hoped.

The Wall Street Journal reported that this year's graduating class is the most indebted in history, leaving college just shy of \$36,000 in debt on average. So, is a college degree worth the time and money?

A good number of college students are starting to say "no." The Harvard Research Institute found that only 46 percent of U.S. college students complete their college education once they've started.

For most students, their college degrees are the largest investments they'll ever make, and for the vast majority of those students, it's an investment they're being asked to decide on when they're 18 years old and living away from home for the first time. With four years and \$36,000 of debt hanging in the balance, the decision is sort of heavy.

The answer is complicated, but Christopher Clark, Associate Professor of economics at Georgia College, puts it into fairly simple terms.

"Are you capable, is it going to be useful for you, and can you afford it," Clark said. "I know a lot of students who come to school with the wrong answers to those questions. They still come, and it doesn't work out for them."

As a professor of economics, Clark provides a decidedly straightforward

and logical insight to the opportunity cost involved in getting a degree.

"College is probably not for everyone, but it's not for no one either," Clark said. "There are definitely people who need to go and will benefit from going. People who are very smart, very driven, and want to get better- people who want to learn how to do things differently- college is for them. There are other things for people who have different choices, different routes."

Clark explained that there are two ideas in economics about the value of a college degree: signalling theory, and the idea that you actually gain skill from college. "Signalling" in this context refers to the idea that your college degree, if nothing else, sends a signal to employers that you are willing to put in work to complete a relatively difficult task. The other idea is that a graduate will have gained vital skills in college that they'll utilize in whatever field they pursue. Most economists, Clark says, believe both are at work.

If a student believes they might not need a degree for what they want to pursue, they're faced with a critical choice.

"You're either going to continue to pay for the signal," Clark said. "Or you should stop. If you think this signal is what you need to get the job you want, then you have no choice, you have to stay in college. If you think you can go get the job and do what you want without it, then you have no reason to be here. Unless you want to expand your horizons and learn about

different disciplines, if you want to go start working on the thing, go work on the thing."

Students don't always have to make as vast of a monetary investment to come to college as others, but that doesn't necessarily change whether the experience is worth it for that student.

In the state of Georgia, students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher have the benefit of the HOPE scholarship, but not every student who receives that scholarship completes their college education.

"If you shouldn't have been there to begin with, you're worse off because you either have debt, or we (Georgia residents) payed a lot of money and you didn't get better, you didn't get a degree, or you didn't learn what you needed to learn," Clark said. "You spent money, we spent money, or we both spent money, and the return is basically nothing. You could argue that they're expanding their horizons, but if you went to college and smoked pot for a semester and dropped out, you didn't learn anything except for how to roll joints better, and someone paid a lot of money for you to do that."

If someone reaches the conclusion that they shouldn't be in college, it's rarely too late for them to turn back, Clark said.

"If you've been here three years and it's doing nothing for you, and you do not see any reason it's going to pay off, it doesn't matter if you've been here three years," Clark said. "The next year costs you money, and the return is nothing, so you shouldn't do it."

Director of the Georgia

College Career Center, Mary Roberts, says the question of whether or not

"Are you capable, is it going to be useful for you, and can you afford it- I know a lot of students who come to school with the wrong answers to those questions."

Christopher Clark,
Economics Professor

to dropout is a very case-to-case thing, but believes there to be value to higher education for anyone.

"Education and training
i s

important for anyone, no matter what they're trying to do," Roberts said. "If you're trying to work up the ladder within a company, somewhere, someone might say: 'well, you're going to need a four-year degree.'"

The Career Center is a resource for students that offers resume workshops, mock interviews, counselling and other tools for students to prepare to enter the workforce or decide what they should do in college and afterwards.

Inevitably, some students will find that college isn't their best option.

"You have to be honest with yourself about your skills and what's best for you in terms of your learning style," Roberts said. "For some people, it could be that a four-year education isn't right for them."

That said, Roberts urges students to thoroughly research and think about their decision before they

make it. They may find that they could really benefit from finishing college.

"I think a lot of people are looking for some kind of immediate return, Roberts said. "You've got to look at the lifetime of a person who graduated college."

The Federal Reserve Board looked at the lifetime of a lot of people who graduated college and found that the average lifetime earnings of a college graduate are \$830,000 higher than that of a highschool graduate. That's a pretty substantial return on the investment of a degree, but that isn't to say college is worth it for everybody. But if a student is in college because they want to get better at what they're interested in, they might be here for the right reason.

"You've got to go because you want to learn," Clark said. "Not because you want to make more, but because you actually want to learn."



This really "buggies" me

Obtained from Milledgeville Police Department Officers responded to the Dollar General on the afternoon of Nov. 24 about damage to personal property. The complainant stated that she saw a woman put a shopping cart on the sidewalk and walk away. The cart then rolled into her car, leaving a small dent in her bumper. Police recorded the damage and the case remains open.

There was an "actual fire" in the MAX?

On Nov. 19, an officer responded to a report of a fire in "The Grill" section of the MAX. Upon arrival, the power went out in the dining hall and all its occupants were evacuated until the cause of the outage could be found. About five minutes later, smoke was seen coming from "The Grill" section and the chef on scene put out the fire before the Fire Department arrived. The cause was determined to be some substance dropped onto the top of the grill. No property damages or personal injuries were reported.

I plead the fist

In the early morning hours of Nov. 15, Officer Powell noticed a man stumbling down the sidewalk near Foundation courtyard. He observed the man almost fall down the stairs. When Powell approached him, he noticed a strong smell of alcohol. The student claimed that he was only 19 and was going to the Grove apartments. Officer Powell noticed the man had blood on his mouth and arms. The man claimed he had gotten in a fight, but could not remember who he had fought. He was arrested for public intoxication and transported to the Milledgeville Jail. When issued a citation, the man refused to sign because he "felt like he was getting screwed over." Officers noted that he refused to sign and he was turned over to the jail for processing.

Text with One Eye Open

An officer reported to Magnolia Apartments on Nov. 22 in response to complaints threatening texts. The texts contained personal information and messages with statements like "sleep with one eye opened." The victim stated that she thought the sender may be girl from her home town who also had a pending case against her for breaking into and stealing belongings from her home in Roswell. The officer attempted to phone the sender but was only able to speak to the father who said he would ask his daughter if she had sent the messages.



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Men's team anticipates Morehouse matchup



Derek Roberts
@ATLSportsDerek

The Georgia College men's basketball team has started their season with a bang, winning five of their first seven games as of Dec. 2.

"Obviously we want to be 7-0, but at 5-2, we feel pretty good about it," second-year Head Coach Mark Gainous said.

Coming off of a disappointing 2014-15 campaign that saw the Bobcats finish 9-19, this year's squad has already won more than half of the amount of games than last year's team.

"The biggest difference between this season and last season is that we're shooting the ball a lot better," Gainous said.

As of Dec. 2, the Bobcats are averaging 74.7 points per game, shooting

43.7 percent from the field, roughly 34.3 percent from behind the arc and 77.3 percent from the free-throw line.

Despite the team's hot start, the Bobcats have split their last four games, falling 55-56 against Albany State on Nov. 20, beating Clark Atlanta 83-74 on Nov. 23, defeating Albany State 87-63 on Nov. 28 and losing 69-80 to Benedict on Nov. 29.

Gainous emphasized the importance of the team's ability to shoot the deep ball. He said one of the team's goals is to make at least eight 3-pointers per game.

The only two games the Bobcats didn't record at least eight 3-pointers resulted in the team's only two losses. GC went 5-22 in 3-point attempts during the loss to Albany State and 5-27 during Sunday's loss to Benedict.

"You hear the term 'We live by the 3, we die by



Sydney Chacon/ Senior Photographer
Senior guard Terrell Harris is averaging 24.1 points through seven games.

the 3.' That's just what we have to do this year because we have a lot of good shooters," Gainous said.

Senior guard Terrell Harris, GC's leading scorer, has been putting on a clinic during the team's first seven games. He's averaging

roughly 24 points per game, shooting an impressive 62.4 percent from the field and 42.3 percent from 3-point range.

Aside from being a constant scoring threat, Harris has been helping the team with other parts of his

game. During the past four games, he's averaging five and a half rebounds and almost four assists.

"We have to figure out how [Harris] can shoot more shots," Gainous said. "He can score post-ups, drive the ball to the basket, and he can shoot free throws, 3-pointers and mid-range shots. He's one of the best scorers in the history of our school."

Senior guard Ryan Blumenthal has also been contributing to the team's scoring attack. As of Dec. 2, he's averaging 11 points per game. Blumenthal recorded 15 points during GC's win over Clark Atlanta on Nov. 23, and he led all scorers with 23 points during the team's victory over Albany State on Nov. 28.

Junior forward Kelvin Nwanze recently received praise from Coach Gainous.

"I think Kelvin's having a really good season so far," Gainous said. "He's shooting a high percentage

from the floor, he's blocking shots and he's taking good care of the ball."

With a reinvented roster, Gainous said he's noticed drastic changes in the team's gameplay.

"The mindset of the team has impressed me the most this season; it's different from last year," Gainous said. "This year, we're going to do everything in our power to win, and the Anderson game was a prime example. We were down 10 points, and the guys just kind of refused to lose, so the mentality of the team is much better, and I think that comes with experience, so it's a good feeling."

Gainous and the men's squad will square off against Morehouse in Atlanta on Dec. 12 7 p.m. The Bobcats will return to the Centennial Center on Dec. 16 in a matinee matchup against USC Aiken at 12:30 p.m.

Women win five straight



Derek Roberts
@ATLSportsDerek

The women's basketball team has strung together five-consecutive wins and has started the season 6-1, backed largely by the strong play of the team's two seniors: forward Kadesha Gibbs and guard McKenna Rushton.

"Anytime you can start the season off with six wins and one loss, that's a positive sign," Head Coach Maurice Smith said. "I'm proud of our ladies."

The Bobcats picked up a nail-biting 54-52 win versus Catawba on Nov. 20 and trampled over Trevecca Nazarene 82-56 the next day during the University of North Georgia Nighthawk Classic.

Gibbs led all scorers in both matchups, while also notching two double-doubles. She recorded 20 points and a team-high 11 rebounds against Catawba and 18 points and a team-

high 16 rebounds against Trevecca.

Rushton also made her presence felt. She recorded a double-double of her own against Catawba, scoring 18 points and bringing in 10 boards. She followed up with 16 points against Trevecca.

As of Dec. 2, Gibbs is averaging roughly 16 points and 11 rebounds per game, while Rushton has managed to average roughly 12 points and 7 rebounds per game.

"For us to be successful, we really need [Gibbs and Rushton] to play well, and we're kind of piggybacking off of their play," Smith said. "They're playing phenomenally well, and they're getting their teammates involved. They're team players, and they're displaying really good senior leadership, so I'm very fortunate to have them."

The Bobcats picked up two road wins in their last two games. They outlasted Clark Atlanta 74-67 on

Nov. 23 and beat Tuskegee 60-46 on Nov. 30.

"From Trevecca until now, we've made a lot of improvements, mainly from a defensive perspective and a rebounding perspective," Smith said. "Overall, I think our defense has been solid, and our rebounding has been solid. It's good to see us improve in those areas because we have to really hang our head on."

Gibbs' valiant effort was once again put on display. She picked up another double-double against Clark Atlanta, posting 20 points and 23 rebounds. She fell just short of her fourth-straight double-double during the Tuskegee matchup where she contributed 16 points and nine boards.

"Gibbs is putting up big numbers," Smith said. "She's playing with supreme confidence, and her teammates are feeding off of that confidence, too. I think that's the biggest thing."

With only two seniors



Sydney Chacon/ Senior Photographer
Senior forward Kadesha Gibbs recorded three-consecutive double-doubles during the current win streak.

and limited number of players returning from last year's squad, Smith said he's pleased with how well the team has meshed so far.

"Our togetherness has impressed me the most, and it's been really impressive because they just appreciate one another and enjoy playing for one another," Smith explained. "I'll be honest, it kind of eliminates or overrides a lot

of our mistakes, knowing that we're kind of playing as one unit on the floor."

Despite the team's early success, Smith said there's still plenty of things the team needs to work on as the season progresses, specifically consistent play.

"We can't take steps back," Smith said. "Our turnovers have been up more so than I'd like, but we definitely have to take

care of the ball a lot better, and that just comes with playing stronger with the ball."

Starting with a matchup against Belmont Abbey on Dec. 5 at 5:30 p.m., the Bobcats will host six-straight home games, including their first conference game of the year against USC Aiken.

Svehla reflects on her historic freshman season



John Dillon/ Senior Photographer
Freshman middle blocker Taylor Svehla was awarded Peach Belt Conference's Co-Freshman of the Year.



Sam Jones
@SamJonesGCSU

colonnade: What was the biggest difficulty coming from high school to college?

taylor svehla: I think the biggest difficulty was finding my place on the team and realizing what my role was on the team, but I think that I definitely got used to the team and to everybody.

colonnade: What was the biggest difference between A A A A A volleyball and playing at GC?

svehla: I definitely think that they were actually both pretty similar and super, super competitive. I mean playing with these girls, there's definitely a change in the mindset. We take it a lot more seriously, but at the same time we have a lot more fun, too.

colonnade: What's your favorite memory from the season?

svehla: Our first on-the-road conference match that we won was big, and also just being able to make the conference tournament was a huge accomplishment and something I'll never forget.

colonnade: You won Peach Belt Conference Freshman of the Year, what allowed you to come in and be immediately successful?

svehla: I definitely have a unique personality. I'm very loud and very outgoing. So I think that helped me to be able to come in and start playing my role on the team right away.

colonnade: What about you as a volleyball player has grown the most over the first year?

svehla: From an emotional standpoint, I've learned to work with my teammates better and communicate a lot better. From a technical

standpoint, I learned how to swing block. I came here to college not knowing how to do that at all, so that was big change getting used to working like that.

colonnade: What's the offseason going to be like for you? What are you focusing on improving?

svehla: We're just going to work extremely hard. I'm actually really excited to get back in it already. I think that specifically for me, I'm going to work on lateral movements and a little bit of servicing to see if I can fit in that position.

colonnade: End Goal for next season? Your career?

svehla: Next season would be to compete for a conference championship and to make it to the NCAA tournament. For my career, I don't really know. Just to be the best I can be. That's always kind of my goal. As a team, I would love to be a part of the NCAA Tournament.

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Behind the scenes of Directing Scenes

Colonnade news editor immersed himself in two student directed scenes



Nick Landon
@realnicklandon

As an aspiring screenwriter/film producer/director/actor, directing scenes last semester seemed like the ideal way for me to learn more about acting without committing to a mainstage production. Directing scenes is a sort of showcase for the work of a directing class where students each choose a scene, cast it, and direct it.

I had a great experience, I learned a lot, so auditioning again this semester was a no-brainer.

After being cast in two scenes: one, *The Vandal* by Hamrish Linklater, directed by senior rhetoric major, theatre minor Will Morris, the other, *The Sound In the Throat* by Elizabeth Merriweather, directed by junior theatre major Clay Garland, I learned very quickly that I had my work cut out for me.

Luckily, I'd known both directors before through the *Armed Farces* improv troupe, and we got along fine. Since they knew me pretty well, they were able to really get into who I was and try to help me draw

that out into the characters I was portraying in the show- a pretty cathartic experience.

The real work comes from that exact thing. The most challenging work was in making my own traits and experiences bend to the will of the character- not just memorizing lines and blocking.

I was, of course, also aided by my incredibly talented co-stars. Julia Melvin who screamed a pretty relentless and entertaining monologue in *The Vandal*, and Rebecca Gaylor who did a convincing and touching dingo impression in *The Sound In the Throat*.

The student-to-student learning process involved in directing scenes has been incredibly effective for me, and I've gained a wealth of knowledge from having the privilege to work with some outstandingly talented directors. Learning from the students who study theatre is a great way to learn about theatre in a sort of organic way, and that's part of what will make directing scenes one of the things I never forget about my college experience. If you missed me this time around, you'll see me at the show next year.



John Dillon/ Senior Photographer
Wednesday night showcased a variety of dramatic performances directed completely by students.



Mouse King prepares for his 'Nutcracker' reign



Kelsey Richardson
@gcsunade

The sugarplum fairy, mouse king and tin soldiers return to Russell Auditorium from Dec. 10 to Dec. 12 for an enchanting performance of "The Nutcracker." Directed by Georgia College's dance director Amelia Pelton, the two-act ballet provides an entertaining jump start to the winter holidays. In order to catch a glimpse of a performer's perspective of the show, The Colonnade sat down with junior mouse king, Trey Rutherford.

colonnade: Why did you try out for the role of the mouse king?

trey rutherford: I never actually auditioned

for the role. I was just in the right place at the right time and was offered the role during my freshman year.

colonnade: What made you decide to be a part of the Nutcracker again?

rutherford: It's a very fun show that is a joy to work on each year.

colonnade: How often do you have rehearsals for the performance and when did practices start?

rutherford: Because I am a returning performer, and because I am only on stage for approximately eleven minutes of the two-hour spectacle, I rehearse once a week, usually on Sundays, for around thirty minutes. Those rehearsals started in early November.

colonnade: What has been the most difficult aspect of rehearsals thus far?

rutherford: My role, while short and sweet, is highly active, so staying in good enough shape to not have a mini heart attack on stage is the only tough part

colonnade: Out of all of the people you work with during practice, who inspires and motivates you the most? Why?

rutherford: I am really fortunate in the people I get to work with, but I have to say that I am most inspired to work with my girlfriend, Nicole Mandato. She is a Lady-in-Waiting to the Mouse Queen. She is just a wonderful performer to

work with each day.

colonnade: What do you love most about performing in the Nutcracker?

rutherford: I love seeing the smiles on the kids' faces after they come to the Friday morning performance.

colonnade:

What do you hope audience members will take away from this performance?

rutherford: The Nutcracker is a show about the power of our dreams and imagination. It is my hope that the audience leaves the auditorium with a smile and a renewed sense of child-like wonder in this wonderful holiday season.



Amar Misimovic
@gcsunade

The four weeks of winter break can quickly become days of monotony and laziness as college students attempt to adapt back to a life of parents and siblings. An easy getaway to hundreds of fiction worlds is just a mouse click and Netflix subscription away. Here are The Colonnade's top five choices for your winter break entertainment straight from your bed or couch.

1. American Horror Story

"American Horror Story," a drama-horror TV series, will add some

creepiness to your holiday break. Each season is different from the other, so viewers can start on any season, and the storyline will not be affected. The series displays a lot of human evil, offering a little spice to the typical holiday spirit everyone experiences this time of year.

2. Dexter

"Dexter" describes the life of a Serial Killer who is also a blood-splatter analyst for the Miami Police Department. With each episode about an hour long and eight seasons you'll have your hands full during

winter break. "Dexter" is interesting because it transforms murder into a casual action--viewers will find themselves questioning whether they should react differently towards his controversial actions.

3. Bruce Lee Movies

Bruce Lee movies are action-packed and surprisingly comedic. Many Bruce Lee movies are filled with screaming kicks and punches that give any viewer a mini-dose of adrenaline. The movies are pretty humorous as well,

considering a lot of the supporting characters act poorly. Some Bruce Lee film suggestions include, "Big Boss," "Game of Death" and "Way of the Dragon."

4. BoJack Horseman

"BoJack Horseman" is a perfect show to binge watch with episodes being 25 minutes long and only two seasons. The animated series follows the life of the forgotten actor BoJack Horseman. The show portrays BoJack Horseman as a horse, but gives him

initially laughing, only to slowly discover its somber undertones. I recommend this highly--99 percent ripeness.

5. Trailer Park Boys

"Trailer Park Boys" is a comedic series that looks at the lives of three friends living in a Nova Scotia trailer park. The plot follows these friends as they attempt to make a living through petty crimes and elaborate schemes. Each episode is roughly 20 minutes long with nine

real and relatable feelings. While starting the series, viewers will find themselves

seasons; binge-watchers be warned, this may take a while to finish. The show is ideal for anyone looking for an easy laugh without the commitment of a 45 minute episode series.

6. Hell's Kitchen

"Hell's Kitchen" will not disappoint with Chef Gordon Ramsay at the Helm of the ship. The cooking competition show pits several amateur cooks against each other. Chef Gordon Ramsay's profanity and temper spices up the competition and provides for an entertaining watch. With 14 seasons and hour-long episodes, you will have more than enough content to stay occupied throughout the break.



Studying abroad is necessary for language fluency

memoirs



of a
crazy
cat lady



Kelsey
Richardson
@gcsunade

Sie können mich nicht verstehen. Usted no me puede entender. Vous ne pouvez pas me comprendre. If you didn't catch any of that, don't worry.

Chances are you didn't become fluent in another language from college classes.

Not being able to speak another language fluently after taking four semesters of foreign language classes is a trend with Georgia College students.

Students required to take four levels of a language are left confused and upset when they don't become fluent afterwards. Students are left wondering why the language courses are mandatory when they don't even benefit from them.

"Oh, gosh, I've sucked at foreign language," said Benedict Esposito, recent GC mass communication graduate. "Look, in high school I took Latin, and it didn't help me. And then I come into college, and had to take four semesters of Spanish, and that still sucked. I've just been always struggling with a foreign language."

GC foreign language professors Anisio Martin Dos Santos and Hedwig Frauenhoffer said that they are both aware that close to none of the students who take four levels of a language become fluent afterwards. If the language department professors know that most of the students aren't fluent after four semesters, then what is the point of taking them?

"After four semesters, it's not going to be always



"After four semesters, it's not going to be always beautiful, it's not always going to be grammatically correct, but you should be able to communicate — get your point across."

*Hedwig Frauenhoffer,
GC German and French professor*

beautiful, it's not always going to be grammatically correct, but you should be able to communicate — get your point across," Frauenhoffer said.

The professors at Georgia College aren't doing their jobs incorrectly, they are just hindered by the limited nature of the classroom.

In order to fully grasp a foreign language, a person needs to be speaking it constantly. Learning a foreign language is like learning how to compute newly learned math equations — if you're not using it, you'll lose it.

"After not being in Japan for a good six months, I lost a lot of simple words," said AJ Lewis, a senior art major. "I can barely remember one of the alphabets. That's annoying."

When taking a foreign language class, you're only talking in another language three hours per week. Once you leave the classroom, you revert back to English.

The only way to fully grasp a foreign language is to live in the country where the language is spoken constantly. If GC wants its students to become fluent in

another language, it needs to create a mandatory study abroad program.

"I think the context that we provide in the classroom are by necessities somewhat artificial, so when you learn a language in context in the language, then you associate a certain situation with vocab," Frauenhoffer said. "For instance it's a lot more natural way to learn — less artificial."

Around-the-clock immersion forces students to use their learned foreign language. Ordering food, buying a train ticket and asking for directions are all situations that are unavoidable when visiting a foreign country.

"It's all about taking you out of your comfort zone," Santos said.

Some students may argue that they will never need to use a foreign language because of their major.

Jarris Lanham, one of the study abroad advisors as GC, said that a year or so ago a group of faculty members made a petition advocating for the removal of foreign language requirements for non-foreign language majors.

The petition was declined, but the attitudes towards learning a foreign language still exist among some of the college's staff.

"It's not just a GC thing, it's a faulty mindset," Lanham said.

Interacting with people from different countries is an unavoidable occurrence, especially in the United States.

Frauenhoffer said societies are becoming more multicultural and multilingual. In all types of professions, people



Photos special to The Colonnade
Both the editor and assistant editor of the entertainment desk have collectively experienced three study abroad programs on two different continents. Left: Kelsey Richardson prepares for her first junk boat trip with friend this past summer in Hong Kong. Top: Angela Moryan spent seven weeks in the summer touring and studying in Italy.

are going to work on teams with people who have different cultural backgrounds.

"I would argue that for any major in this very connected society you need language skills," said Frauenhoffer.

She brought up a recent article about how two children from West Africa immigrated to the United States. A young woman was interviewing them, and since they just arrived in the United States, all they spoke was French; thus, she had to conduct the interview in French.

A mandatory study abroad program for those taking four or more levels of a foreign language isn't a simple solution to this issue of fluency.

The problem is money. Before 2012, foreign

language majors were required to study abroad in order to graduate.

The requirement was lifted because of the issues students were having with paying for the trip. Frauenhoffer said that a type of anxiety comes with the major about losing people because of the requirement; the mandatory study abroad could deter students from taking on a certain major because they don't want to pay to travel.

In order to make mandatory study abroad an established part of the college, all of the faculty and staff need to adopt the same attitudes toward learning another language. Before confronting the issue of money, GC needs to recognize the importance of speaking more than one language.



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Holiday Gift Guide



Angela
Moryan
@traveling_ang

from your entertainment editor

for the *music lovers*

1



Pentatonix's "That's Christmas to Me" - This Billboard topping a cappella group released their first Christmas album last year, adding new songs to the iTunes edition this year. Holiday classics with a Pentatonix twist compose the album and can spice up any holiday gathering, while still keeping with tradition.



Also check out Pentatonix's chart-topping self-titled album for more fantastic covers and originals.

2



One Direction's "Made in the A.M." - Coming off the still recent Zayn departure, the now four member boy band recently released their fifth studio album, a gift to fans directly preceding their indefinite hiatus. The album shows a more chill side to the pop group with love ballads that still get caught in the heads of fans and non-fans alike.

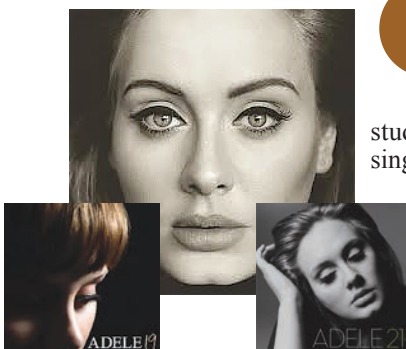
If you like One Direction's music, be sure to check out Justin Bieber's comeback album "Purpose" featuring a jazzy side of the Biebs.



3

Adele's "25" - The soulful singer's newest album is certainly the talk of the music industry for multiple reasons. Her insistence on creating full studio albums in a world dominated by \$1.29 single purchases and streaming services has not harmed her at all. In fact, her bluesy tunes have simultaneously broke the internet and topped record sales across the globe.

If you're new to the Adele fandom, give her previous albums a listen.



for the *movie buffs*

1



Tickets to Star Wars The Force Awakens - The big question for the seventh installment in the monumental series is will it break long-standing box office records. Regardless of the numerous predictions of success or failure, the movie will undoubtedly be the go-to during the holiday season. Tickets to a showing, or even the premiere on Thursday, Dec. 17, are the perfect holiday gift for all Star Wars lovers.

Check Best Buy and Amazon for holiday deals on the the blu-ray versions of the original trilogy and the controversial prequels.

2

Personal copies of classic films - For the old souls who wish they grew up in a different era, check out Turner Classic Movies' online store packed with Cary Grants, Alfred Hitchcocks, Humphrey Bogarts and many more. The store is stock full of remastered versions of well-known classics and packages of less famous features. The store has a special selection of holiday films as well.



If you like classic movies, you must see Irving Berlin's White Christmas starring Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye at least one Christmas season before you die.

some *more ideas*

If these don't seem to fit for your special gift, consider buying concert tickets to your friend or family member's favorite artist or group. Major Atlanta radio stations are also hosting holiday concerts with multiple artists scheduled for one night. And if worse comes to worst, spring on a custom or limited edition T-shirt or pajama pants with their favorite movie character or latest fan obsession. Etsy is a great jumping off point in the search for the perfect fan item.

for the *video gamers*



1

PS4 Battlefront Special Edition - You can settle for the slightly less expensive regular version of the Playstation 4, but my personal recommendation would be to spring for the limited edition, Darth Vader version. Complete with a copy of the new Battlefront game, every gamer will enjoy a brand new system packaged with one of the hottest games of the season. Don't be afraid of the EA hate though, because free map expansions will be coming in the next months.

Be sure to add Fallout 4 to the shopping cart, too.

for the *book nerds*

1

"The 5th Wave" by Rick Yancey - Coming out of the dystopian young adult novel phase, "The 5th Wave" is the next lengthy book to get to the big screen. Recommended for those who enjoyed the Hunger Games trilogy or any of the other slew of teenage revolutionary books dominating young adult sections in every book store. If you plan to see the movie, it is almost an absolute must to read the book beforehand.



2



"Unbroken" by Lauren Hillenbrand - Another book-into-movie, this true war story made it to the New York Times bestseller list after journalist Hillenbrand turned her article into a feature length book. The movie itself is fantastic, but the book is known to be even better than the Oscar-nominated film.

Try "American Sniper" by veteran Chris Kyle if you like non-fiction military stories.

When did you stop believing in Santa?

Warning: Those who still believe in the jolly American Christmas tradition might lose faith.



Janileyah
Thompson
@gcsunade

The end of the calendar year is full of celebrations of all kinds across all cultures in the United States. Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah and New Year's have traditions that are different from family to family and year to year. One tradition many Americans entertain each Dec. 25 is the story of Santa and his magical present delivering to all the good little girls

and boys across the globe. A lot of the students apart of the Georgia College community believed in Santa at one point in their childhood, but many lost their faith in Ole Saint Nick at an older elementary school age.

Some students shared the time when they stopped believing in the long-held tradition.

"I was around 8-12 and I think it was kind of a cultural thing. Everyone around me, we just kinda stopped," sophomore

creative writing major, Spencer Frost said. "But of course there was always that kid. You know that kid. The one who ruins the magic of Santa for everyone."

"What?" sophomore biology major, Josh Pharr said. "He's not real?"

"What?" said senior management and liberal arts studies double major, Kelly VanRoy said.

"I don't think I ever believed in Santa," junior

nursing major, Natasha Markowich said.



"I stopped believing in Santa when I saw my parents wrapping gifts," freshman psychology major, Mariah Isbell said.

"When I was eight or nine, my mom basically told me because she thought I knew already," sophomore nursing major, Olivia Freeman said.

"I never really believed in the first place," sophomore accounting major, Jane Nutter said.

"Probably when I was

either 10 or 12," junior special education major, Zac Sine said. "I don't remember how, but I feel me and my buddies we just knew even if we pretended like we didn't. I don't know. It just kinda drifted away I guess."

"One year I left food in my yard for Santa's reindeer," senior mass communication major, Kelsey Richardson said. "The food was still there in the morning. I haven't believed since then."



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Katie
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Between the all-nighters, cups of coffee and questioning your sanity, finals week tends to take students' anxiety to an all-time high. Taking time to relieve this stress is imperative to survive finals week. Everybody has a different way to cope, but one scientifically proven way to reduce stress is coloring.

Although it seems childish, according to the Huffington Post, psychologist Gloria Martinez Ayala said, "[coloring] incorporates the areas of the cerebral cortex involved in vision and fine motor skills. The relaxation that it provides lowers the activity of the amygdala, a basic part of our brain involved in controlling emotion that is affected by stress."

So take a minute to color a winter mandala, and forget about the tear-filled week in front of you. You got this.



Farewell from the Sports desk

Holy shit. Where has the time gone? I'm 23 years old, and I'm finally about to graduate college — well, I sure hope I am.

Looking back at the unconventional route I've taken to potentially/ hopefully earn a mass communication degree and all of the crazy memories that came with it, I wouldn't change a thing.

Logically speaking, if the opportunity ever occurred, I should probably go back and change some things, however, the mistakes I've made, the lessons I've learned and the knowledge I've acquired has helped transform me into the person I am today.

Granted, I'm not your picturesque college student, not by a long shot. My study habits are lackadaisical, my attendance is subpar, I procrastinate with the best of them and I like to party. But somehow, I've always managed to stay afloat. For the past five years, I've kept my head above water. Sometimes it's a few feet out of the water, and sometimes it's on the verge of sinking, but nonetheless, I've done what I've had to do to get by.

"Getting by" is such a complex phrase. The meaning of the term vastly varies, depending on who you talk to. Some will argue the phrase has negative connotation, but for me, getting by means doing whatever it takes for me to reach my goals, while balancing everything life throws at me.

Sure, everyone should shoot for the stars, exceed expectations and be the best at what they do, but I'm too realistic for that sanguine, fairytale hogwash. Instead of fretting about not being the best, I'm confident in knowing that I possess a multitude of skills that will help me be a successful professional.

Despite what some will say or think, I'm pretty damn proud of myself for what I've accomplished. To be honest, I'm proud of myself just for making it this far. Graduating college is no easy feat, especially

when you overcommit — and just a head's up, partying sure as hell doesn't help.

But see, that's the point. I've sacrificed the potential opportunity to be the cream of the crop, but in exchange, I've had the luxury of truly experiencing college life for all its worth, and I wouldn't have it any other way. There were times, well maybe a few times, I chose to go out and party instead of doing my schoolwork. There were times I had to pull all-nighters and work harder than I've ever worked. There were times I ate peanut butter sandwiches and canned meat for days at a time, but that's all part of college.

As I've gotten older and questionably wiser, I've learned that college isn't about mastering one thing in particular. College is learning how to juggle way too many things at one time, while still keeping your sanity and having fun. College is learning how to overcome obstacles without giving up. College is learning how to deal with failure in a healthy manner. College tests your determination, while pushing you to the limit, and sometimes over it.

College has taught me more than I can put into words. Yes, it's taught me the academic essentials: math, science, history and English, but more importantly, it's taught me how to deal with life.

I've learned how to meet strict deadlines. I've learned how to go days without sleeping. I've learned how to manage money and pay bills. I've learned how to eat as cheaply as possible, and that being broke isn't much fun.

I've learned how to manage stress. I've learned how to juggle obligations and prioritize. I've learned how to work several jobs without giving up. I've learned the importance of sticking to my word and being accountable.

I've learned how to professionally interact with people I can't stand. I've learned how to work as a

team and how to put others before myself. I've learned how to genuinely treat people with compassion. I've learned to better appreciate meaningful relationships.

I've learned to be more forgiving. I've learned to be more open-minded, and I've become more free-spirited. I've learned to not pass judgment. I've learned how to step out of my comfort zone. I've learned how to be myself, and most importantly, I've learned to not give a shit what others think of me.

And surprisingly enough, I've even learned how to get drunk with barely any money to my name.

Now, as I sit at my desk at 3:30 a.m. during my last production night for The Colonnade, still awake from the night before, contemplating what to do with my life after graduation, I look back at my time at Georgia College and The Colonnade, and I'm forever grateful.

My coworkers at the newspaper became my best friends — my family. While I'm sure as hell ready to move on with my life and see what the world has to throw at me, I'm going to miss the hell out of my fellow Colonnadians — more than I'd like to admit. I'm going to miss the tireless nights, the chaotic atmosphere of the office and the undeniable comradery that we share.

As bittersweet as it is knowing that these days will soon be behind me, I'll always have the unforgettable memories I've made with my newspaper family and the life-long friendships I've made.

Thanks for all of the good times, the endless laughter, the unconditional love and all of support and advice. Lastly, thanks for not bitching too much about me taking forever to design my pages. Much love, homies.

Peace out,
Derek Roberts

Editor says an emotional goodbye

I'm not a very emotional person. While most of my girl friends cry at things like The Notebook, or boys or cute gestures, I find myself dry-eyed. I dated a guy for almost five years and when we broke up, the only person I talked to about it for a long time was my mom for a total of about ten minutes. I haven't had any traumatic event that cuts me off from my emotions. I just don't have as many as most people.

But I'm feeling very emotional now.

My life as a student is coming to an end. I will no longer stay up all night because my classes are in the afternoon. I can no longer go out drinking downtown on a Tuesday night and say it's OK because I'm just being a college kid. I will no longer be surrounded by all of my closest friends all the time on my tiny, adorable campus.

But there is a positive side.

My life as a young adult is about to begin. I will no longer have homework. Teachers will no longer judge my work on a one to

100 scale. I will no longer have to spend all night working on homework and papers that I honestly am not interested in.

I cannot express in words how grateful I am to have gone to Georgia College. Despite my complaints over the past three and half years, I wouldn't want to have spent my college career anywhere else. To be completely honest, the experience of college may possibly outweigh the education I have received. Of course I am gracious for the knowledge I have obtained, but the times and friends I have made are priceless.

There is a bond that college students have that cannot be created in any other walk of life. You don't know a friend until you have stayed up all night with them in the library to the point of being delirious in your 8 a.m. class. You cannot replace the memories made on a Thursday night in downtown Milledgeville. These are things that I will have forever and no one can take them away from me.

I will miss my college

campus. I will miss my college friends. I will miss my college life.

But I'm ready to move on.

I'm ready to work, to travel, and to discover new things in this giant world. I find myself so torn among a whirlwind of emotions as my time is ending here at Georgia College. My chapter as a student is coming to close, and my chapter as an adult is beginning so soon.

So here I am, being all emotional about college ending. And I wanted to say thank you.

Thank you to all of my friends for your friendships. Thank you to my teachers for the knowledge you have given me. Thank you to everyone who broke me down and built me up these past few years. College has given me a better understanding of who I am, and I am confident in my ability to take on the world.

Goodbye Georgia College, I will miss you dearly.

Katie Skogen



Dear Editor,
We are bothered by the fact that Milledgeville doesn't offer recycling services to its downtown residents.

Several cities now offer recycling programs, some are even mandatory. These programs have proved to be impactful in their communities time and time again by reducing the need for new landfills, saving energy, supplying raw valuable materials

back to industries and even stimulating the economy.

We've all heard the main reason as to why recycling is important: it helps the environment. But it runs much deeper than that; it also helps people. Providing citizens with opportunities to recycle also encourages people to more environmentally conscious. This consciousness can then lead residents to take even more steps to preserve, respect and beautify this

unique part of town. Not only this, but it can offer citizens a feeling of fulfillment and purpose as they do their part to protect this world for future generations, and perhaps make it even better.

Currently, almost every bar in Milledgeville will throw away an average of five to six huge trash bags filled with beer bottles and plastic cups after a busy night. These numbers will probably only increase as Georgia College and Milledgeville grows, which both undoubtedly will.

Imagine the difference that could be made if these materials were recycled and reused, rather than just sent to corrode in a massive pile of junk up the road.

However, we speak for several of our classmates, professors, friends and fellow residents when we say we are willing to try.

Sincerely,
Mary Henderson and Katie Griffin

*happy
holidays*



From:

THE

COLONNADE